



Macomb County Executive

Mark A. Hackel

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Deputy County Executive

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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide you with testimony today. My name is Melissa Roy, I am here today as the Assistant County Executive for Macomb County, representing our County Executive, Mark Hackel. We are here to support the transit package, beginning with Senate Bill 909.

While our office supports implementing a better transit system in the Detroit area, our comments today do not center on that issue. What we are asking members of this committee and the legislature is to move the decision-making into our region – which is the objective of this bill package. There have been numerous attempts to implement a transit system in Southeast Michigan through the legislative process (including the most recent from my prior employer). The discussion invariably becomes very clouded about what the actual needs and costs will be for residents and the impact to the system. Further, this package affords our counties, cities, villages and townships a forum to manage a regional infrastructure issue.

Background on Macomb County Transit:

- Macomb is the only county in the Detroit region that fully participates in the SMART system
- Gratiot is the busiest line in the SMART system and second in the overall transit system in the Detroit region.
- Average ridership along Gratiot avenue in Detroit and Macomb County is approximately 13,000 riders per day
- 18 of the 54 SMART routes serve Macomb County
- Half of the Macomb County routes are designed for travel between Detroit and Macomb and half are designed to serve Macomb to Oakland travel.

Top SMART Routes in Macomb County:

- Gratiot – 5500 riders / day
- Van Dyke – 3096 riders / day
- 9 Mile (top cross town route) – 1778 riders / day
- 12 Mile – 1504 riders / day
- Kercheval / Harper – 1113 riders / day

The Macomb County Executive office encourages the committee to support the legislative package to implement a regional transit authority in the Detroit Region. Our office would however, like to request a change in the population descriptions for “a county of not less than 800,000 and not more than 850,000 residents” to “a county of not less than 800,000 and not more than 950,000 residents.”

Thank you for your support, I am happy to answer questions from the committee.